



# Louisiana Interchurch Conference

## E-Newsletter

December 18, 2017

*“To live the faith we hold in common”*

Website links: [HOME page](#) [About Us](#) [Resources](#) [Daily Prayer Calendar](#) [Newsletter archive](#)

*Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy and Blessed New Year!*

[\*The Light Shines in the Darkness \(Article from our Director\)\*](#)  
[\*Shreveport Service of Unity in Honor of the Reformation\*](#)  
[\*Year of Prayer for Cancer Alley – Opening Service Jan 27th\*](#)  
[\*Week of Prayer – Please send us your scheduled events!\*](#)  
[\*Creation Care Workshop – March 1st in New Orleans\*](#)  
[\*Farm Advocacy program awarded a grant for 2018\*](#)  
[\*Offering thanks to our recent contributors\*](#)  
[\*Dates to calendar & LIC Holiday schedule\*](#)

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### *The Light Shines in the Darkness*

Article from our Director

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life,<sup>[a]</sup> and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5*

In a recent column in the *National Catholic Reporter* entitled “Life is Headed Somewhere Good this Advent,” Richard Rohr writes: “This season [of Advent] is more than a sentimental, reminiscent waiting for a new baby Jesus.” Of course, Rohr is in some ways stating the obvious because we all are aware of a world that at times seems filled with suffering and injustice. Yes, we also know that Jesus preached that those who follow the Messiah are called to a commitment involving offering up our own lives in service. It’s almost as if Jesus is saying to us that it’s not enough to have sympathy and pray at a distance. We are all called to join the fray. How do we honor this Call but also welcome the babe from Bethlehem?

As I mentioned to friends recently when the snow fell in Baton Rouge for the first time in almost ten years, I became a child again. Waking up early that morning I first caught sight of the snow falling when I looked out our front window onto the street and saw a blanket of snow! In no time at all my wife and I, accompanied by our Golden Retriever, Mac, practically scooted out of the house making our way down the street through the neighborhood. This was a day for pets, children and the child at heart in all of us. It was

as though time had stopped for me as the snow fell in silence painting a beautiful landscape all around. A phrase comes to mind: “Lost in wonder, love and praise.”

As the shepherds watched over their flocks that night so very long ago and heard the message of the angels; surely they also found themselves stunned by the wonder of that Holy Night. The Star also guided the wise men to Bethlehem to the place where that new life greeted a world looking for a Savior. The Light really did shine into the darkness, and that light continues to shine in our world today. It is the experience that surrounds us as we kneel at the manger that enables each of us to stand up and carry that Light into the world. It is through the experience of a glimpse of the wonder of peace that we can also witness to those whose hearts are filled with the darkness of violence and despair. As we await that wonder we offer the words of the Carol: O Come, O come, Emmanuel!

Rev. Dan Krutz

### *Shreveport Service of Unity in Honor of the Reformation*

Source: Catholic Connection Magazine

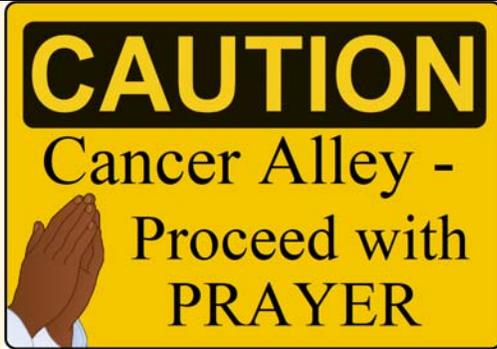


Bishop Michael Duca, Msgr. Carson LaCaze; Fr. Peter magnum, Rev. Dr. Chris Currie, and Rev. Dr. Joe Hill led the congregations of the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans and First Presbyterian Church in a Prayer for Christian Unity. (Photo courtesy of Neil Johnson.)

**In honor of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation**, parishioners from the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans recently joined together with the congregation of First Presbyterian Church outside on Jordan Street in Shreveport to pray for Christian Unity. LIC Board members Bishop Duca, Msgr. LaCaze, and Rev. Joe Hill were among those officiating.

A time was coordinated for both congregations to depart their churches in order to process and meet in the middle on Jordan Street. All the ministers had an active role in the prayer service, which included choirs from both churches singing a variety of hymns on what turned out to be a beautiful day. The ceremony concluded beautifully and appropriately with the exchange of the peace, reflecting the ecumenical spirit and hospitality of the event. Participants acknowledged that Christ founded one church and they must continue in prayer for that unity to be restored.

Year of Prayer for Cancer Alley – Opening Service Jan. 27th



2018 Opening Service  
*Save the Date*  
January 27th 10 - Noon

The 2018 Year of Prayer for Cancer Alley opening service will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2018, from 10 am to noon at Mount Calvary Baptist Church, 8117 Calvary Street, in the community of Welcome, LA (by St. James, in St. James Parish).

As reported previously, the LIC Board of Directors passed a resolution at the Fall Board Meeting, designating 2018 as a Year of Prayer for Cancer Alley in Louisiana. Cancer Alley is a well-known area along the Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, which contains numerous industrial plants. In this River Parishes area, higher than normal cancer rates of lung and kidney cancers are found, as well as an abnormally high rate of some rare cancers.

*Source: Wikipedia:*

*In 1987, when residents of one street in St. Gabriel, Louisiana, noticed the abundance of cancer cases within their community, "Cancer Alley" became the new name for Jacobs Drive. As similar incidences became more and more prevalent in surrounding areas, the "alley" grew to encompass an eighty-five mile stretch along the Mississippi River. Prior to media coverage of the issue, the area between Baton Rouge and New Orleans was simply known as the "petrochemical corridor".*

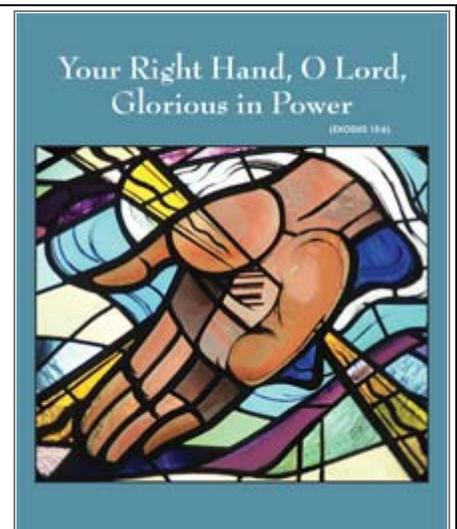
*In 2002, Louisiana had the second-highest death rate from cancer in the United States. While the national average is 206 deaths per 100,000, Louisiana's rate was 237.3 deaths per 100,000. At the same time, the death rate from cancer in the area dubbed Cancer Alley was higher than the rest of Louisiana, as well as the national average.*

Week of Prayer – Please send us your scheduled events!

*Please let us know as soon as you know of events occurring in your area, so that we may post them in the LIC newsletters and/or on the LIC website.*

Events we've been notified of so far:

**January 19, 2018:** Bishop David Talley of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Alexandria has advised of plans to hold an Ecumenical Liturgy of the Word – Prayer Service at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, 626 4th Street, Alexandria, LA Phone: (318) 445-1451, on Friday, January 19th (11 AM to 12:30 PM, with brunch), as their main focus for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Vicar General, Fr. Scott Chemino, will coordinate this for the diocese. Please make plans now to attend!



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The LIC has a small supply of *ordering forms* for Week of Prayer materials. Please [email](#) us if you would like an ordering form pamphlet mailed to you.

## Creation Care Workshop – March 1st in New Orleans

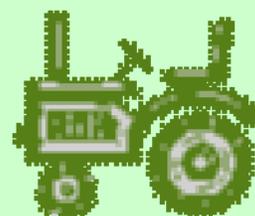
The Louisiana Interchurch Conference is partnering with the **Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition** to offer an education event for clergy, lay leaders and others on the topic of being more effective in our care for creation. The goal of the training is to prepare clergy and others in leading congregations to become educated about climate science and to recognize its impact on our daily lives.

The event will take place on March 1, 2018, at the office of the National Wildlife Federation, 3801 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA, from 9am till 1pm.

Please mark your calendars! More details will follow.

## Farm Advocacy program awarded a grant for 2018

**We are pleased and thankful** to report that **Farm Aid, Inc.** has awarded the LIC a \$5,000 grant for the year of 2018, to continue our farm advocacy program. This program includes operating a crisis hotline which provides callers with individual counseling and support to address financial, legal, emotional and other issues that farmers experience in running their farm businesses; and offering limited individual emergency grant funds to qualifying farmers in distress. Find out more at: [http://www.lainterchurch.org/resources/index.htm#Farm\\_Aid](http://www.lainterchurch.org/resources/index.htm#Farm_Aid)



## Offering thanks to our recent contributors

The majority of the LIC operating income is contributed through the leadership of our member Judicatories, whom we deeply appreciate and depend upon. Additionally, we offer our sincere thanks to our ministry partners who have contributed as listed below.

*Contributions received from November 16, 2017 through December 17, 2017:*

Farm Aid Grant & Advocacy Program: Farm Aid, Inc.

Friends of the LIC and Miscellaneous Contributions: Mrs. Carol Broussard; Mrs. Sara L. Simmonds; Bishop Ronald P. Herzog; Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey; Mr. & Mrs. Ed and Helen Wild; Dr. Wayne E. Carter; Rev. Susan Lassalle; Mr. & Mrs. Herman & Ruby Guidry; Mrs. Donna P. Crider; Dr. Mallery Callahan; Mr. Louis McHardy; Mr. John Winn; Mrs. Mary Jane Jones; Mrs. Maude Saunders Sharp; Roy M. Lilly; and Mr. & Mrs. Hugh & Mary Ann Straub.

**Thank you!**

Please pray for this ecumenical ministry. If you would like to help financially, please mail contributions to: Louisiana Interchurch Conference, 527 N. Blvd., 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, or contribute online via PayPal at <http://www.lainterchurch.org/contribute/index.htm>.

## Various Dates to calendar

### Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

### **Annual Assembly meeting dates:**

March, 2018	March 5-6, Baton Rouge - <b>RESERVE THE DATE!!</b> 😊
2019	March 11-12, Lafayette

### **Fall Board meeting dates:**

2018	Sept. 24-25, Lake Charles
2019	Sept. 23-24, Monroe

LIC Holiday Schedule:

Closed for Christmas: Friday, December 22nd through Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. Will reopen on Wednesday, December 27th.

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Closed for New Year's: Friday, December 29th and Monday, January 1st. Will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd.  
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***“To live the faith we hold in common”***

*Louisiana Interchurch Conference*

*527 North Blvd., 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802*

*(225) 344-0134 [www.lainterchurch.org](http://www.lainterchurch.org)*

*President: The Most Rev. Michael G. Duca; President Elect: The Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey;*

*Executive Director: Fr. Dan Krutz*

You are receiving this message because you have previously expressed interest in the work of Louisiana Interchurch Conference. ***We hope you enjoy our newsletter!*** However, if you'd like to discontinue receiving this e-newsletter, please [click here](#) or call us at: (225) 344-0134.